



MEMORIAL BRASS, XV. CENTURY, FROM BROWN CANDOVER
NAME UNKNOWN.

A MEMORIAL BRASS FROM BROWN CANDOVER.

BY REV. W. L. W. EYRE.

In the year 1889, circumstances required an inspection of the rectory house of Chilton Candover, and in passing through the empty rooms, in one of the cupboards were found the fragments of the memorial brass, represented in the accompanying illustration. The heads of the figures were broken off, and other minor damages had occurred. A smaller brass of a priest had previously existed in connection with the old church of Brown Candover, but no trace of this could be found. To prevent further loss or injury, the fragments of this two-figure brass were sent to Winchester to be repaired and mounted on a slab of slate. While at Winchester it came under the eye of Mr. H. D. Cole, a local antiquary, at whose instigation the subject was brought before the notice of the Society of Antiquaries, of London by Mr. J. G. Waller, F.S.A.¹

At the meeting of the Archæological Institute, held in Winchester, 1845, this brass and the smaller one of John Latihall, priest from Brown Candover, were exhibited. Mr. Duthy appears to have seen both these brasses *in situ* in the old church at Brown Candover, now destroyed. He mentions in connection, a black letter inscription which records the death of a certain Margery Wylson, 1559, but with the brass here described no inscription was found, nor does one seem ever to have been attached to the effigies. The costume indicates an earlier date than the middle of the sixteenth century.

¹ Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond., 2 Ser. XII. 334.

² Proceedings of Archæological Institute, Winchester, 1845, p. li.

³ Duthy's Sketches of Hampshire, p. 140.

According to Mr. Waller the figures represent a gentleman and lady standing arm-in-arm. The position is unique. Both have their hands in the attitude of prayer. The gentleman has long flowing hair reaching to the shoulders, a fashion which marks the close of the XV. century. He wears an over tunic reaching midway down the legs, and lined with fur. The sleeves are full, and wide at the wrists. About the neck is a plaited shirt worn at this time by both sexes as shown in the lady's figure. The gentleman's left foot is on the lady's dress which is long. His shoes are developing towards the wider toes, worn in the reign of Henry VIII. but here make an obtuse point in the centre and are fastened by a latchet across the ankle. The workman has made a correction in the right foot, of which the base line was too low, and he has worked over it the lines which form the ground. Around the waist is a girdle from which hangs the *gipcière* or purse.

The lady wears a closely fitting gown with long and full skirt, tight sleeves and furred cuffs. The pedimental head-dress has a kind of cap with ornamental lappet and veil hanging down behind. She wears a loose girdle with a huge buckle and pendent strap extending to the feet.

On the piece of metal between the shoulders is engraved a lily flower, probably to personify purity or chastity. The absence of inscriptions leaves us in doubt as to the date, probably the beginning of the XVI. century. A fracture about the heads has been repaired. The plate is 1-ft 6-in. long \times 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. wide, and the execution of the brass is a fair specimen of the art then declining.

This memorial is now affixed to a slate slab, placed on the north wall of the chancel of the present church, erected in 1845, for the united parishes of Brown and Chilton, Candover, with the following inscription.

This Brass was formerly in | Brown Candover old Church | placed here for preservation | on account of its extreme interest, A.D., 1889. |

The earlier churches of the Candover Parishes having been pulled down, it has often been asked if any more brasses ever existed within either of the Churches than these two. No quite satisfactory answer can be given.

I would add that when entering upon the incumbency of Swarraton a box of medium size was removed from an attic in the rectory house there, containing many fragments of brasses and sent to the care of the rector of Itchenstoke, an adjoining parish on Lord Ashburton's Estate, these fragments appear to have belonged to the old Church at Itchenstoke, which stood in the meadow below the rectory garden towards the river. They still remain under the care of the Rev. C. Conybeare, the present rector of Itchenstoke.

